

Running Head: Is the Media Biased: Steubenville Rape Case

Media Bias: A Closer Look at the Media and the Steubenville Rape Case

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Even though the news media did not have all viewpoints in this case because the victim has not spoken; the media maybe biased when it comes to certain stories, because the 16-year-old victim was never named and the case made national headlines, but was told from different points of view. When we talk about media bias, we are talking about how the media fails to include varied viewpoints on a particular story (“What is media,”). Is the media at fault for being biased in the Steubenville Rape because they did not include all viewpoints on this particular case? Looking at how this story was told from the viewpoints of CNN, ABC, NBC, and USA Today, you will see what viewpoints were the main focus from each of these news reports. The lack of details maybe why the media focused this story on the assailants as oppose to the victim.

The rape of a 16-year-old girl occurred in Steubenville, Ohio on the night of August 11, 2012. The victim in this case was incapacitated by alcohol and was sexually assaulted by two of her peers, and others had documented the act in Social media (Almasy,2013). The media focused the story on Trent Mays and 16-year-old Malik Richmond (Almasy,2013). They were sensational athletes that had promising futures in playing football after high school. During and after the trial, the media maintain their focus on the two assailants.

For instance, ABC News, seem to make excuses for the assailants. ABC ran an episode on the case on 20/20 (Lombardi, Lisa & Sean,2013). The focus of this episode was on Malik Richmond, and the portrayal of him was positive. The main focus of this episode was how Malik had such a promising football career ahead of him (Lombardi, Lisa, & Sean,2013). ABC

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seem to be making excuses for his behaviors, and football was all that mattered.

Furthermore, after the verdict was read in this case, reporter Ron Allen, from NBC's show Today, reported that the boys have to register as sex offenders ( Ron Allen, 2013). He went on to talk about how the boys had promising football careers. Moreover, USA Today, talked more about the victim than any of the other media sources. Although, USA Today did not seem to sympathize with the victim. For instance, USA Today talked about how the victim was drunk and how the girl was assaulted at an all-night party (Petrecca ,2013).

Although, there is more to this case than what is written in this paper, this case will have a lasting impression on anyone who followed the story. All viewpoints in the Steubenville Rape Case were not represented, but was it because the victim was told not to speak to the media by her parents and lawyers, or was it simply her age? I believe one day we will see her on one of the talk shows telling her truth of the story. I believe the media can still be biased even though they cannot represent all points of view, but they will choose which point of view viewers will pay most attention to. Someone who watches the news closely will recognize that some stations and programs represent the news in ways that will make you take a defined position.

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